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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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23 August 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : Daily Activity Report - 23 August 1963

1. Mission Status

a. IDEALIST - The U-2 Detachment at Edwards AFB, California, is on standby status. The U-2 Detachment flew a mission over Manchuria Estimate 50% of targets covered.

25X1

b. BRASS KNOB - There was one SAC U-2 mission over Cuba on 22 August. Estimate 95% target coverage; no hostile reaction.

c. CORONA - The CORONA J launch is scheduled for today, 23 August.

2. OXCART Flight Status

a. Aircraft #121 (J-58 engines) - This aircraft was ready for flight at 1500 hours but held for weather, however, when towed from the hangar for a 1630 hours take-off, a fuel leak in tank #1 was discovered and the flight postponed.

b. Aircraft #122 (J-58 engines) - Made flight #22 for a duration of fifty-five minutes. The purpose was to extend heat soak time.

c. Aircraft #124 (trainer) - Made flight #122 for a duration of 1:35 hours. Purpose - air refueling training for an operational pilot. The second flight scheduled for this aircraft was cancelled due to high winds.

25X1

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d. Aircraft #125 (J-58 engines) - Right engine change and run-up completed. Scheduled for two camera and inertial navigation system flights on 23 August.

e. Aircraft #126 (J-58 engines) - Pre-flight inspection in progress. Scheduled for flight 23 August for inertial navigation system tests.

25X1

f. Aircraft #127 (J-58 engines) - Made flight #2 for a duration of 53 minutes. Maximum altitude 50,000 feet and Mach 1.75. Purpose - aircraft systems checkout and the first sonic boom measurement flight. A second scheduled flight for this aircraft was cancelled because of high winds. Next sonic boom measurement flight - 23 August.

g. Aircraft #128 (J-58 engines) - In process of final assembly. Estimated time in commission - 3 September.

25X1

The weather on 22 August was poor because of a low in the area.

3. MURAL and ARGON

a. ARGON Mission #9058A - Launch is planned for the day of the first CORONA/J Mission #1001 recovery. The launch of #1001 is scheduled for 23 August and the first recovery within four days.

b. Back-Ups for CORONA/J Missions #1001, #1002 and #1003 -

(1) The first spare MURAL payload available as a backup to the above CORONA/J missions will support a launch date of 10 October. The decision required to meet this date must be made by R-45 days.

(2) The first spare J payload for conversion to MURAL will support a launch on 7 November. Decision required to meet this date must be made by R-35 days.

c. In the case of failure of CORONA/J mission #1001 attributable to J configuration, either J-2 (payload for #1002) or J-3 (1003 payload) can be converted to a standard MURAL configuration. Decision to convert at R-28 days will slip launch date six days; at R-14, a slip of 8 days, and at R-6 a slip of 11 days.

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d. The Deputy for Technology, OSA, Recommends - Wait until mission #1001 is launched and see how the mission proceeds. Afterwards, consider options in paragraphs b and c above. The option noted in paragraph b. (1) above, is the least disturbing.

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